

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 AGR-05 COME-00 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 TRSE-00 STR-04 L-03 /033 W

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R 122310Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9627

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR GT

SUBJECT: 1976 MEAT IMPORT PROGRAM

REF: STATE 303837

1. GOG WAS INFORMED THROUGH MINEC (MARIO MEJIA, DIRECTOR FOREIGN AND INTERNAL TRADE) AND AGREED IN PRINCIPLE UPON A VOLUNTARY RESTRAINT AGREEMENT FOR 1976 ON SIMILAR LINES AND VOLUME AS THAT CONCLUDED FOR 1975.

2. SURE OF THEIR COUNTRY'S CATTLE AVAILABILITY AND SLAUGHTER POSSIBILITIES FOR THE YEAR, THEY SAID THAT THEY WOULD GLADLY RECEIVE ANY INCREASE IN ALLOTMENT IF GRANTED FOR 1976 OVER THE 33.4 MILLION POUNDS LEVEL OF 1975.

3. ACCORDING TO AGATT, TOTAL GUATEMALAN EXPORTS FOR 1975 UNDER PL 88-482, AS REPORTED BY PLANTS, INCLUDING SHIPMENTS OF WEEKS ENDING JANUARY 4 THROUGH DECEMBER 28, 1975, TOTALLED 31.7 MILLION POUNDS AND FELL SHORT BY 1.7 MILLION POUNDS OR 5 PERCENT FROM THE 33.4 MILLION POUNDS ALLOTTED BY US

4. GUATEMALA REACHED THIS REFERRED LEVEL OF EXPORTS IN SPITE OF SERIOUS DETERRENT OF RELATIVELY LOW FOREIGN MARKET PRICES FOR THE PRODUCT BUT AS A RESULT OF THE EFFORT OF LOCAL PLANTS TO MAINTAIN THEIR INTERNALLY ASSIGNED (BY GOG) QUOTAS

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AS A COSTLY EARNED RIGHT.

5. AGATT AGREES THAT THE COUNTRY WILL HAVE FOR 1976
SUFFICIENT AVAILABILITY OF CATTLE FOR SLAUGHTER FOR BOTH
INTERNAL CONSUMPTION AND EXPORT MARKETS AT SIMILAR LEVEL
OF 1975, BUT BELIEVES THAT IF PRICES ABROAD WERE TO INCREASE,
PLANTS HERE WOULD DEFINITELY ENLARGE EXPORTS.
MELOY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEATS, EXPORT DATA
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: powellba
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976GUATEM00193
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760011-0329
From: GUATEMALA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760167/aaaachfj.tel
Line Count: 68
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 303837
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: powellba
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 JUL 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <25 OCT 2004 by powellba>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: 1976 MEAT IMPORT PROGRAM
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, EPAP, GT
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006